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Have you space for President Roosevelt's admirable letter in regard to this matter?

Always appreciating your excellent magazine, I am

Very sincerely,

Princeton, N. J.

BESSIE LOUISE DICKSON.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S LETTER

The letter was not written for publication, but was read with the writer's permission in the course of an address on "The Assault on Womanhood." The letter, which is dated November 10, 1908, says:

"Personally, I believe in woman suffrage, but I am not an enthusiastic advocate of it, because I do not regard it as a very important matter. I am unable to see that there has been any special improvement in the position of women in those states in the west that have adopted woman suffrage as compared with those states adjoining them that have not adopted it. I do not think that giving the woman suffrage will produce any marked improvement in the condition of women. I do not believe that it will produce any of the evils feared, and I am very certain that when women as a whole take any special interest in the matter, they will have the suffrage if they desire it.

"But at present I think most of them are lukewarm: I find some actively for it, and some actively against it. I am for the reasons above given rather what you would regard as lukewarm or tepid in my support of it, because while I believe in it, I do not regard it as of very much importance.

"I believe that man and woman should stand on an equality of right, but I do not believe that equality of right means identity of function; and I am more and more convinced that the great field, the indispensable field, for the usefulness of woman is as the mother of the family. It is her work in the household, in the home, her work in bearing and rearing the children, which is more important than any man's work, and it is that work which should be normally the woman's special work, just as normally the man's work should be that of the bread-winner, the supporter of the home, and if necessary, the soldier who will fight for the home.

"There are exceptions as regards both man and woman; but the full and perfect life, the life of highest happiness and of highest usefulness to the state, is the life of the man and woman who are husband and wife, who live in the partnership of love and duty, the one earning enough to keep the home, the other managing the home and the children."